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Philipp II. August, König von Frankreich. Von ALEXANDER CARTELLIERI. Erstes Buch: Bis zum Tode Ludwigs VII., 1165–1180. (Leipzig: Friedrich Meyer. 1899. Pp. xv, 92, 76.)

DR. ALEXANDER CARTELLIERI has already become known to those interested in the history of medieval France by reason of his studies of Philip Augustus, which have appeared not merely in his graduating dissertation, of 1891, but in the *Revue Historique* in 1891, 1893 and 1894. The field which then so attracted him has continued to claim his attention, and the studies then begun have been pursued with increasing fruitfulness at Paris and Berlin and have led him to undertake an extensive life of the great king. The first result of this determination is the small volume now under review, which constitutes the opening book of what, if it is completed on the same scale on which it is begun, will prove a life-long task to its author and a monumental biography of the first medieval ruler to make the French monarchy a power in the affairs of Europe as a whole.

Necessarily the time covered in the installment of Philip's biography now before us,—extending from his birth on August 21, 1165, to September 19, 1180, when the death of Louis VII. left him sole ruler of France,—is so largely that of Philip's childhood that the present volume is chiefly important as indicative of Dr. Cartellieri's method and of what may be expected in future studies which will treat of the king at an age of greater maturity and influence. But the period here discussed presents some features of much interest to the student of minuter aspects of French history. In these years lie the young ruler's crowning, and his relations as joint sovereign to his fast-aging father,—matters of considerable importance for French constitutional history. Before the close of the period treated by Dr. Cartellieri comes Philip's first marriage, full of political significance. And in these years, too, lies that involved struggle for supremacy in the counsels of the young monarch between Philip of Flanders, the skilful Henry II. of England, and the Champagne interest represented by Philip's maternal relatives. In this period, also, Philip begins, in the nominal interest of the Church, his internal policy of repression toward the quarrels of the lesser nobility, and assertion of the royal authority wherever the monarchy had claim to lordship. Dr. Cartellieri has treated these themes, and all else relating to the political life of the young king during this period, with much clearness and a thoroughness and minuteness in the use of the sources that is worthy of the most hearty commendation. If his enthusiasm for his youthful hero is great, and his disposition to assign to Philip a formative rôle during the first year of sovereignty seems possibly excessive, Dr. Cartellieri has given us a volume not merely of painstaking accuracy in the presentation of dates and facts, but of high promise that we shall have, when the successive books that he plans are added to it, a worthy critical biography of the great French monarch.

The value of Dr. Cartellieri's volume is much increased by the appended discussions, and especially by a Register which includes an epitome of no less than one hundred and one charters and letters having to do with Philip Augustus between his birth and a time shortly after the death of Louis VII. This Register Dr. Cartellieri does not propose to continue over the field so largely occupied already by M. Léopold Delisle's well-known *Catalogue des Actes de Philippe-Auguste*.

WILLISTON WALKER.

St. Thomas of Canterbury, His Death and Miracles. By EDWIN A. ABBOTT, M. A., D. D., Formerly Fellow of St. John's College, Cambridge. (London: A. and C. Black. 1898. Two vols., pp. xv, 333 ; vii, 326.)

THIS is an uncommonly interesting and instructive work on an out-of-the-way and unpromising subject. No genuine lover of books can fail to experience a thrill of pleasure as he takes into his hands the two sumptuous volumes in which heavy paper, broad margins and bold type are lavished upon a theme in itself apparently of little more than antiquarian interest. And no one who dips into the work here and there, curious to know the reason for all this expenditure of time and labor, can fail to be fascinated and amused by the marvellous tales that crowd its pages. He will read far and long before he lays it down and he will know more about Thomas Becket's death and miracles ere he quits his delightful task than he ever knew before, and not a little into the bargain of the morbid taste, amounting even to a passion, for the miraculous in twelfth-century England.

The work had a peculiar origin. The author, a well known Biblical scholar, in preparing a critical commentary on the Gospels was led to look into the various accounts of St. Thomas's death and miracles for illustrations of the way in which the several evangelists treated their theme, and the proposed brief excursus grew gradually into the bulky work which lies before us, and what was intended as a mere illustration of the methods of the evangelists became a critical study of the greatest interest and importance, of the whole subject of historical evidence. It is as a study of evidence that the work is chiefly valuable to historical students. An extract or two from the author's own words will indicate what is meant. "From a comparison of the narratives above given the first and most general conclusion is one that must be most unsatisfactory to all those who desire short cuts to truth. For it is this: that no general rule can be laid down as to the value of an early account as compared with a later one. An early account sometimes teems with falsehoods. A later account sometimes corrects falsehoods; sometimes makes them falser and adds to their number. The value of a writing depends upon facts that are often very difficult to ascertain—namely, the position and character of the writer, his opportunities for observation, or for collecting evidence from those who have observed, and his power of setting down what he